



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

**American Red Cross
417 Bland Street
Bluefield, WV 24701
Phone (304) 327-5071
Fax (304) 325-2260**

May 19, 2008

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 04-233

Dear Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary:

I am writing you a brief letter on behalf of WVVA, to tell you of the intricate part they play in the continuing operation of The American Red Cross.

I am apart of the Central West Virginia American Red Cross. We have an office that is located in Bluefield, WV. Each office is responsible to raise their own money to support the individual needs of our community. Most people know the national and international levels that the Red Cross works on, but many are unfamiliar with the local levels on which we operate. Please allow me to tell you of just some of the families that the Bluefield office of the American Red Cross has been able to help because of the coverage that WVVA has given us.

Each year, the American Red Cross responds immediately to disasters, including house or apartment fires (the majority of disaster responses), hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous materials spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, and health and mental health services to address basic human needs. In addition to these services, the core of Red Cross disaster relief is the assistance given to individuals and families affected by disaster to enable them to resume their normal daily activities independently. WVVA has covered these events, recruit volunteers and enable others to give donations to not only get them back on their feet but to allow them to have a new start on their lives. Without the help of WVVA these families could be still be struggling to begin again.

The American Red Cross also has a responsibility to link members of the U.S. Armed Forces with their families during a crisis. Both active duty and community-based military can count on the Red Cross to provide emergency communications that link them with their families back home, access to financial assistance from the military aid societies, counseling, referral to community resources and assistance to veterans. WVVA has provided us with sponsorship, news coverage and support to fund us in our endeavors.

Another way that WVVA has helped the Red Cross is help with their blood services. The Red Cross serves as the bridge between over 4 million generous blood donors and millions of patients in need each year. Our community is apart of that bridge and WVVA has promoted us in gaining many donors.

For nearly a century, the American Red Cross has prepared people to save lives through health and safety education and training. From first aid, CPR and bloodborne pathogens training to swimming and lifeguarding, HIV/AIDS education and Babysitter's Training, American Red Cross Preparedness

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programs help people lead safer and healthier lives. Our chapter has instructors that teach many classes around our area and WVVA has been a main part of getting everyone prepared to save lives.

The American Red Cross helps people in emergencies every day. Whether its half a million disaster victims or one sick child who needs blood. People like WVVA, who learn how good it can feel to lend a helping hand, make our vital work possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna M Hess".

Joanna Hess
Volunteer of Public Affairs
American Red Cross/ CWV-Bluefield